

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 VO-03 SCA-01 L-03

EB-11 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 CU-04 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 /115 W

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O R 290901Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 933

INFO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4189

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, PFOR, JA, CH

SUBJECT: SPECIAL PRC FLIGHTS TO US

REF: A. STATE 063141; B. TOKYO 4112 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED
POINTS REF A WITH GOJ. DOUBTFUL PUBLICITY CAN BE AVOIDED.
LOCAL NORTHWEST AND FAA REPS PREPARED ASSIST FLIGHT AS SOON
AS PRC EMBASSY READY BEGIN DISCUSSION.

1. EMBASSY CONVEYED INFO PARA 2 REF A TO OGURA, DEPUTY HEAD,
CHINA DIVISION, FONOFF ON MARCH 30. OGURA EXPRESSED SURPRISE
AT FACT PRC HAD NOT APPROACHED USG BEFORE ASKING GOJ FOR
FLIGHT APPROVAL. OGURA NOTED THAT WHILE PRC NOTE TO FONOFF HAD
MADE SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR MARCH 30 TIMES, I.E. ETA 0630Z
AND ETD 0800Z, IT HAD ONLY ASKED AGREEMENT ON APRIL
6 OVERFLIGHT WITH TIMING TO BE REQUESTED LATER.
OGURA BELIEVED THIS LESS THAN PRECISE REQUEST FOR
APRIL 6 CLEARANCE WOULD ALLOW PRC FLEXIBILITY TO WITH-
DRAW REQUEST IF PARIS ROUTE SELECTED.

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2. REGARDING POINT RAISED PARA 2D REF A OGURA SAID MATTER HAD BEEN KEPT WITHIN GOJ TO PRESENT, BUT STATED BELIEF IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE AVOID PUBLICITY OVER MARCH 30 FLIGHT TO ANCHORAGE FOR MUCH LONGER. HE NOTED INTER-MINISTERIAL CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED, PARTICULARLY WITH MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION, TO PROVIDE APPROVAL FOR FLIGHT. FURTHER, FLIGHT PLAN WILL HAVE TO BE FILED. FINALLY, PLANE FOR ANCHORAGE WILL BRING TABLE TENNIS TEAMS TO JAPAN AND WILL THUS ATTRACT PRESS ATTENTION FOR THAT REASON. THUS NEWS OF ONWARD FLIGHT PLANS BOUND TO LEAK AND JAPANESE PRESS CAN BE EXPECTED GIVE FACT CONSIDERABLE PLAY.

3. ON RELATED MATTER, EMBASSY CONTACTED PRC EMBASSY AT REQUEST OF NORTHWEST IN EFFORT ASCERTAIN SERVICES REQUIRED TOKYO. PRC EMBASSY THANKED US FOR COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE, BUT DECLINED DISCUSSION PENDING RECEIPT OFFICIAL APPROVAL FROM GOJ. OGURA STATED THAT SOME TECHNICAL DETAILS STILL NEEDED TO BE WORKED OUT, BUT THAT HE EXPECTED APPROVAL TO BE GIVEN EVENING MARCH 29 TOKYO TIME. NORTHWEST AND TOKYO FAA REP STANDING BY TO FACILITATE FLIGHT AS SOON AS PRC EMBASSY IS READY.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT WITH BEST OF WILL GOJ COULD NOT AVOID PUBLICITY ON PRC FLIGHT TO ANCHORAGE. GIVEN PRESENT CLIMATE TOKYO AS RESULT GOJ-PRC CIVIL AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS, SUBJECT BOUND TO ATTRACT ATTENTION AND PRESS PLAY.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR SCHEDULES, FLIGHT CLEARANCES, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, NEWS LEAKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO04189
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740069-0142
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974032/aaaaabve.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 063141; B. TOKYO 4112 (NOTA, L)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPECIAL PRC FLIGHTS TO US
TAGS: ETRN, PFOR, JA, CH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005